

David
Coughlin

me - we are here at the home of Theresa
Olds at 590 Elliott Street, in Ishpeming Michigan
and the date is December 31, 1983

me - Okay where and when were you born?

G - Oh! I was born April the 4th in Ishpeming

me - Okay and what did you think of F.D.R.?

G - well what I remember people didn't think
to much of Hoover for he didn't do
anything to help them during this time
however when F.D.R. became President
he provided jobs ~~by~~ by organizing CCC
camps ~~and~~ and WPA my brother worked
in both the CCC and the WPA the
CCC camp he worked at was way out
in the wilderness past Manistique they
lived in long wooden barracks which were
only heated by pot belly stoves they made
roads, planted trees and helped in the
forestry work when he worked with the
WPA he worked on Highways and other
projects so the CCC camps and WPA did
really help the people in this area

David
Coughlin

me - How did the depression hurt your family?

G - having a large family and only my dad working 2 days every other week my mother and dad had to go in debt for what little he made couldn't take care of all our bills.

me - did your father and mother work during the depression?

G - Yes! my mother worked hard washing clothes for people and she didn't have the conveniences that we have today, she had to heat her water in a boiler on the stove which was a wood stove and she scrubbed the clothes by hand later she did have a conventional ringer type machine and when she did ah, the only wages she would get was about a dollar for a real big wash load.

My father worked at the Holmes mine in Ishpeming and the working conditions in the mine ~~then~~ then were really poor

me - did your father ever hunt for deer or rabbit at any time?

G - Yes he went rabbit hunting and deer hunting which helped us through this time and we also went and picked blue ~~berry~~ berries & strawberries which we preserved.

David
Coughlin

me - Okay, how many ~~the~~ families ah, got relief?

b - Ah, quite a few families got relief, there was a county house where people could go and get clothing and goods and food items, the ~~the~~ mining Company also gave out plots so people could have gardens my dad ~~got~~ planted potatoes in his plot and we also had a garden in our backyard, a very large vegetable garden everyone helped in taking care of this by weeding and taking care of it.

me - ~~where~~ Were there many major diseases during this time?

b - Yes, there were many major diseases but the worst was the flu epidemic which took a lot of lives.

me - ~~the~~ About how many people turned to Communism.

b - Quite a few people did turn to Communism and they had a hall where they met which was called the Communion Hall which was in downtown Ishpeming.

me - ~~the~~ Where there many churches in this area?

b - There were many churches in the area and people worked hard to keep them going.

me - Was education an important thing?

b - In our family education was important, My mother made ~~us~~ sure that we all had a high school education.

David
Coughlin

me - and where rings and gowns available at that time?

G - Yes! they had rings and gowns but the rings were cheap and the gowns weren't nice at all either ^{ah,}

me - where sports a real big thing in this time?

G - Ah, Yes, baseball was a big thing and in Ishpeming they had games every night and they called it kitterball

me - Ah, what did you do for entertainment?

G - Well we used to go watch the baseball games and maybe once a week we went to a double feature show which was only 15 cents and the movies and the movies were just packed at that one night. The families did alot of visiting ~~then~~ then and the ladies had quilting bees, and carpet rag bees and the men had ah, woodcutting bees in the fall

me - Did your family have a car at all during this time?

G - No, we didn't have a car for we couldn't afford to have a car, and they had street cars for people who wanted to use ^{an} them and farmers that did live north of Ishpeming in the winter would have slays with the horses for their transportation and in the summer they would have wagons pulled by horses

me - Did your family life improve?

G - Ah, yes our family life did improve for in order to make a go of it we had to share and do

G - things together and therefore we grew closer during this time.

me - did the Crime rate rise at all during this time?

G - the Crime rate didn't rise because the people had to stick together then.

me - where weddings and funerals different from today's?

G - the weddings were simpler and smaller and not as extravagant as now and many funerals were held in the homes.

me - Did your family lose any money in the banks when they closed?

G - No, because most families didn't have any money in the banks.

me - Did many people lose their ~~money~~ ^{businesses and} money during the Stock Market Crash?

G - The more well to do people did and people that did have businesses.

me - Do you remember many things about hobos?

G - I remember hobos, they made their rounds to our home every week, and my mother was kind and always gave them a handout and even had them in to share a meal, There was one hobo in particular that I ~~remember~~ remember, his name

B- was "Pinky the Bum," he wear about 4 layers of coats all the time but, when he died they found close to \$1,000 in his coat or in his coats you know, and hobos ah, got together by the tracks where the low income housing is right now, they would build bond-fires and cook what ever they could get a hold of and they would wash their clothes in a creek near by.

me- Do you remember anything about temperance and prohibition?

B- I remember that Ishpeming did have a temperance society, who really worked hard for prohibition.

me- Do you remember anything about Blind Pigs?

B- I don't think ~~Ishpeming had any~~ there were any in the Ishpeming area but maybe in the bigger cities.

me- Where there many moonshiners around here?

B- Oh yes, there were many moonshiners in our own neighborhood there were quite a few

me- Do you remember Mid-Summers Day?

B- Yes that was a special day in our family my mother used to decorate the house she would get tree boughs and branches and

G: G-and she would put them around the pictures and the mirrors and we would have flowers all over and vases on the tables with flowers and there would be a big picnic and ah, this came from Finland this day moreless the Finish People always used to celebrate Mid-Summers Day and groups used to get together and ah, and we would have a lot of fun.

me-Do you remember any railroads around in this area?

G-I remember 2 railroads the Duluth South Shore and the Chicago Northwestern

me-where there many mines closed during the depression?

G-Yes, all the mines were closed and there wasn't a lot of iron ore mined then.